





### THE CHRISTMAS TIME.

Although, perhaps, to the little folk the spirit of Christmas is most noticeably enjoyable, to all, young and old alike, there is something of joy in the Christmas season. Gift-giving and gift-receiving are but features of, not the substance of, the Christmas day, for in the spirit of the day is the real enjoyment.

We celebrate the occasion about the same each year. Merry Christmas is the same for us as it was for our fathers, and for our children's children. It will be the same joyous season of wholesome domestic pleasures, social recreation, charity to the poor and kindly manifestations of good-will all round. Thinking the same old Christmas thoughts, using the same time-honored Christmas forms of speech, and, still more to the purpose, doing the same generous, hospitable, and amiable things that have always made Christmas a feast of beauty, wholesome happiness are fashions that, though they are stereotyped as the procession of the seasons, cannot be improved upon. The best that we may hope to do is to make the old welcome to Christmas heartier and more universal as the years roll on. And that, we are glad to believe is being done. The world is growing merrier all the time. The influences that make for peace and good-will, not only among nations, but between classes and in the daily life of our homes, are, we think, making steady progress the year round.

### EXPANSION ON PARTY LINES.

The *New York Herald*, in its issue of Saturday last, published a table outlining the attitude of more than 500 newspapers on the policy of territorial expansion. Taking the country as a whole, says the *Herald*, the canvass shows a very pronounced majority in favor of extending the boundaries of the United States beyond the Pacific and far out among the islands of the Atlantic. The *Herald* wisely refrains from classifying the results under a political head, as the results are not shown. But there is, among the newspapers, a sharp party division, comparatively few Republican papers antagonizing the policy which has found favor with the administration. Approximately, 75 per cent. of the Democratic press of the country, however, is opposed to territorial acquisition which includes the Philippine, while of the Republican newspapers quoted by the *Herald* fully 80 per cent. declare for expansion. The figures do not indicate, therefore, that there is a very serious division among Democrats, and assuming that the Democratic newspapers fairly represent the opinion of the party throughout the country, it is a fair conclusion that an expansion policy will be a feature of the next platform promulgated by the national Democratic. On the other hand, the next Republican national convention, taking Republican newspapers as a guide to the sentiment of the majority of that party, will declare for expansion, unless the question is settled before 1900. The *Herald's* canvass shows, therefore, the fight will largely be made on party lines in the present Congress, in the next Congress and when the issue goes before the people, the proportion of Democrats and Republicans who will antagonize the policy of their party being probably less than 20 per cent. of either party as represented in Congress and by the press.

*Balto. Sun.*

### THE PENSION APPROPRIATION.

The General Pension bill, which carries an appropriation of \$145,293,830, was put through the House Thursday, less than twenty minutes—the shortest time on record for a bill of this description; and it is worthy of note that its passage gave rise to none of the particular acrimony which such measures are wont to evoke in other years. This fact was evidence of the better spirit which prevails in the lower branch of the Federal legislature, and it was at the same time a recognition of the truth that the pension list in its entirety, whatever abuses may attend the system, has practically become a fixed charge upon the country, with no likelihood of its being removed. The law shall thin out the ranks of the pensioners.

To the popular mind the railroad spark at which the bill was passed Thursday will savor of recklessness, but in fact, under the system of business which prevails in the House, all the work of scrutiny and computation is done in the committee room; the rest is mere formality. And it is not the general pension appropriation, but the practice of passing private pension bills which most calls for depreciation and correction as a wrong against the country and as a source of political demoralization. Mr. Vest showed up this phase of the subject clearly on Wednesday last when he called attention to the fact that though Illinois had furnished 65,000 more soldiers than Indiana, the pension roll for Indiana exceeded that of Illinois by \$1,000,000. He accounted for this fact on the ground that Indiana is a pivotal State politically.

That the bill which was passed by the House Thursday will be more closely scrutinized in the Senate is altogether probable. The Senate on general pension bills is a leisurely body, and none of its foremost members in both parties, including Mr. Gallinger, chairman of the Committee on Pensions, have recently protested against certain obvious abuses.

—*Public Record.*

SENATOR GORMAN delivered a strong speech in the Senate last Friday opposing the bill which continues the extraordinary appropriations for the army and navy during the six months from January 1 to July 1, 1899. Incidentally, Mr. Gorman uttered a warning to the members of the present Congress, that if they do not pass the bill, they will be antagonizing a treaty which proves for unequalled expansion.

THE Ways and Means Committee is not disposed to frame a bill for the modification of the war revenue bill in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Internal Revenue. Scott while the Finance Committee of the Senate occupies its present attitude, says a Washington dispatch. Next of the members are in favor of certain modifications, however, but they believe that the amendments desired can best be introduced into the bill to amend the act which was sent to the Senate at the last session, but upon which no action has been taken.

THE holiday recess of Congress, as provided by the resolution reported to the House, will extend to December 21 to January 4—two weeks. There will then remain but forty-nine working days as the lifetime of the present Congress—scarcely time for the proper consideration of the regular appropriation bills, the more important of which are still in committee.

### Legislators Vote to Reclaim Their Campaign Pledges.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 14.—It was expected that happened in the Democratic Legislative conference to-day, and that meeting adjourned after declaring for in-fusion on organization and taking no action on fusion on the Senate. Those present think there is a fair chance of organizing the House, and that after that it will be time enough to take up the Senate question.

In fact, they believe that if there is a successful fusion on organization the same will be the case for the Senate. It is believed that the fusion will be the result of the fact that if Quay cannot control the disposition of the many minor offices in the House, he will not be able to attend the conference, and will act in concert with those who were on hand.

When Mr. Fox called the conference to order the following resolutions were adopted: That the Democratic party in this State is the only party which is entitled to the support of the people of Pennsylvania, and it is necessary to show them that the party had united in one party.

—*Public Record.*

Representative William T. Cresay, of Columbia, offered the following resolution, which was carried without a dissenting vote:

Resolved, That as Representatives of the Democratic party, we hereby pledge our best endeavors to promote legislative reform measures, and in order to do so we will vote for any measure which will unite all members of whatever party in the organization of the House for the purpose of giving to the people of Pennsylvania such legislation as will promote good government in our State.

—*Public Record.*

Former Consul-General Lands at Havana in Command of His Army Corps.

The United States transport *Panama*, with General Fitzhugh Lee and his staff on board, entered Havana last Wednesday morning.

It will be remembered that when General Lee, who was then consul-general at Havana, left the city last April, just before the war broke out, Spaniards snatched and whisked him off to Cuba. He said he would not go, but he was taken to Cuba and he was there for a long time.

His words were prophetic. General Lee was informed at Havana, that he was to be taken to Cuba, and he was there for a long time.

The General stated that he is simply in command of his soldiers, that his duty is to preserve life and property, and that he proposes to do so with equal justice to Cubans, Spaniards and persons of all other nationalities. He said he had nothing to do with the establishment of any sort of government, and that his duty was confined to living the day of peace and order.

—*Public Record.*

Mr. Bryan on Expansion.

In a recent interview Col. William F. Bryan expressed himself as being in favor of expansion. He said that he believed in the expansion of the United States, and that he believed in the expansion of the United States.

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—*Public Record.*

Adams Leads Off.

The Philadelphia *Register* says that it is encouraging to note that the planting of apple trees has once more become the rule in many counties of Pennsylvania. People residing in Canada and the civilized countries of Europe have come to recognize the delicate quality of the apple grown here, and to buy them in a more liberal scale than formerly. This demand transmitted to this country of course created requisitions for more fruit growers, and the farmers are now filling. A statement issued from Harrisburg, Pa., last week, stated that the Adams county alone now contains 200 acres of bearing trees and 400 acres of those which have just been planted.

According to that statement, however, Adams is not alone in the work of replanting the depleted orchards of a general crop. Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Erie, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Schuylkill, Somerset, Susquehanna, Warren and York have also turned their attention to the same direction and are setting out young trees with a unanimity that is pleasant to observe. It has been shown thus with a little care the flavor of nearly all varieties of apples can be enhanced, and where this has been done the crop is said to be large and fine. The old orchard, in other words, that there is no profit in apple culture and has been exploded, and the more progressive farmers are reaping their just reward in the sale of better product at a higher price.

—*Public Record.*

Chickamauga Park.

The Government has 160 Acres of Land for \$10,000.

General Boynton in his recent report says:

The government, through the Chickamauga Park commission, has secured the deeds of sixteen acres on Lookout Point, the highest point in the Chickamauga region, and overlooking seven states and all the battle fields adjacent to the park. The purchase is regarded as an important one, as the point is a great resort for visitors. The purchase covers the tip of the promontory, facing Morehead Bend and directly across Lookout's battlefield, which is now owned by the government and lies in crescent shape around the bluff, half way between the crest and the river level. During the siege this was an important Confederate position, occupied by a battery.

The park commissioners will at once replace the battery in the position it occupied during the war, and will erect historical tablets at important points. The land will be left to the several states who were engaged at this point to erect monuments and memorial tablets. The price of the tract was \$55,000.—*Washington News.*

—*Public Record.*

CALVIN S. BRICE DEAD.

Former United States Senator Calvin Stewart Brice, of Ohio, died at his residence, New York, of pneumonia. He contracted a cold one week ago last Thursday. On Friday he took to his bed, and on Monday morning pneumonia developed. Everything known to medical science was done to save him. Brice was a great statesman, and a conspicuous figure in national politics, and a strong and aggressive factor in the movement in favor of Democracy which culminated in the success of that party in the general elections in 1892.

—*Public Record.*

### Stone's Cabinet Timbers.

Great Thought to be Stated for Secretary of the Commonwealth.

To those in the inner circles of political activity three things in connection with Governor-elect Stone's official family seem to have been pretty clear within the past forty-eight hours, says a Harrisburg dispatch. These are the selection of William W. Greist, the Lancaster county leader, for Secretary of the Commonwealth; the retention of Colonel James H. Lambart at the head of the Insurance Department as long as he cares to remain in that position; and the retirement of Colonel B. Frank Gilkinson to private life from the Bank Commissioner's office.

It is generally known that Senator Quay is for Greist and that Colonel Stone has made up his mind to appoint the Lancaster man as the successor of Senator-elect David Martin. Colonel Lambart has not only managed to retain his position, but all politicians agree that it would be folly to ask him to resign. That the position of Banking Commissioner has twice been offered to Mr. Greist and is very plainly declined by him seems to be very plainly indicated that the Bucks County man, who so blithely opposed Senator Quay in the campaign, is now in a position to be given a ride on the official sliding board.

Colonel Gilkinson's lucrative position may be given to ex-State Treasurer John W. Morrison, now Deputy Commissioner of Banking, who has very influential backing. This, however, is not definitely settled.

Professor John Hamilton, at present Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, is almost certain to be made Secretary of the department, and George Hutchinson, of Huntington, will be made the deputy.

—*Public Record.*

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